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JUN 1 0 2004

Inventors: Lakshmi Rambhatla et al.

Filing Date: March 1, 2002

Serial No: 10/087,142

Docket: 093/005p

Title: HEPATOCYTES FOR THERAPY AND DRUG

SCREENING MADE FROM EMBRYONIC

STEM CELLS

Art Unit: 1632

Examiner: Thái-An N. Ton, Ph.D.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents Alexandria VA 22313

Dear Sir.

This paper is responsive to the most recent Office Action on the merits, dated April 7, 2004, for which a response is due July 7, 2004. Accordingly, this paper is timely filed.

Applicant has given careful consideration to the analysis in the Office Action. Please enter the

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PATENT Docket: 093/005P Serial No. 10/087,142

Copies of the information are not provided herewith, but are being filed in parent application 10/001,267, to which this application claims priority under 35 USC § 120. The Examiner is respectfully directed to the file for application 10/001,267 to access the information listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449. This is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.98(d).

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a full search for relevant information has been made, or that the information listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 is material to patentability of the claimed invention under 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the first Office Action on the merits, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.197(c)(2). Authorization to charge Deposit Account 07/1139 with the fee therefor under 37 CFR § 1.117(p) is provided in the accompanying fee calculation sheet.

Should any other fees be required for further consideration of the application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees (or credit any overpayment) to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michael Schiff

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June **b**, 2004